(b) whether the proposal is being considered by the Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Government of Gujarat in December, 1996 requested for restoration of 10% adhoc increase in levy quota allowed for the month of December, 1996 due to increase in population.

Keeping in view the availability of sugar, the Government have already allowed 10% increase in levy sugar quota for the month of January, 1997 also.

Circulation of Fake Currency

422. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the circulation of fake currency notes is increasing in the country;

(b) is so, the value of fake currency detected by the Reserve Bank of India during the last three years and the total value of fake currency in circulation as on December 31, 1996;

(c) whether the economy of the country has been affected adversely on this account; and

(d) it so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up Cashew Board

423. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from State Government of Kerala for setting up a Cashew Board for the development of Cashewnut production and cashewnut export in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the present quantity of domestic production of raw cashewnut in Kerala;

(e) whether domestic production of raw cashewnut does not serve the full employment purpose of cashew workers in Kerala;

(f) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to develop the cashew industry in the State; and

(g) the details of new measures likely to be introduced for the welfare of cashew labourers of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The State Government of Kerala submitted memorandum covering several issues including setting up of Cashew Board to promote production of cashew so as to provide employment to labourers engaged in cashew industry.

(c) There is no proposal at present to set up a Cashew Board in the VIII Five Year Plan.

(d) The estimated domestic production of raw cashewnut in Kerala during 1995-96 season is 1.40 lakh MT.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The production of raw cashewnut in Kerala partly meets the requirement of the cashew industry in the State. The requirement is further supplemented by import of raw cashewnuts. Besides, during the VIII Plan, assistance is being provided for area expansion, replanting and supply of quality planting material to increase the domestic production under the Central Scheme on Integrated Development of Cashew in India.

(g) The above measures are likely to continue during the IX Plan which are expected to benefit the cashew labourers of Kerala including cashew industry.

[Translation]

Number of Aided Voluntary Organisations

424. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of voluntary organisations aided by the Union Government;

(b) the criteria fixed for providing such assistance;

(c) the name of the agency conducting audit of such organisations;

(d) the names of organisations which have misutilised the funds; and

(e) the details thereof for the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (e) : Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.